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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5642  
INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1305  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS OSLO 000479

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STATE FOR EEB/TPP/MTA ASCHEIBE  
STATE PLS PASS TO USTR FOR BNORTON  
COMMERCE FOR DMENDOZA, EBRZYTWA

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [WTO](#) [NO](#)  
SUBJECT: NORWAY URGES U.S. AND EC TO RECONCILE COMPETING  
WTO TAFT PROPOSALS

REF: SECSTATE 57995

(SBU) Deputy Pol/Econ Chief delivered reftel demarche regarding textile, apparel, footwear and travel goods labeling on May 4 to Evan Kittelsen, Chief WTO Negotiator, Department for Trade Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Kittelsen said that both the EC and U.S. labeling proposals are good ideas and should be close enough in substance to reconcile and merge. Kittelsen noted that EC representatives had demarched him yesterday seeking Norway's co-sponsorship for the EC's competing labeling proposal and that he told them the same thing. Norway, said Kittelsen, could live with either proposal, with some adjustments, but he thought it best for the U.S. and EC to work together to develop common language. Therefore, Norway would decline to co-sponsor either one. Kittelsen said he would seek some additional clarification of the implications of the U.S. proposal during discussions in Geneva next week.  
WHITNEY